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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, ASEAN, CSCE, WI, CB, YO, GR, IS
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.68/86, FOR 04/11/86

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PRESIDENTIAL RACE

1. THE TWO MAIN CANDIDATES FOR THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCY, SPO-BACKED KURT STEYRER AND OVP-SUPPORTED **KURT WALDHEIM** ENGAGED IN A TELEVISED DEBATE BEFORE A NATIONWIDE AUDIENCE APRIL 10. ASKED ABOUT THEIR WARTIME PAST, BOTH CANDIDATES ASSERTED THAT THEY HAD PARTICIPATED IN WW II WITH "EXTREMELY MIXED FEELINGS". THEY LIKEWISE CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD BECOME AWARE OF THE TREATMENT OF JEWS ONLY TOWARDS THE END OF WHAT THEY TERMED AN "ABOMINABLE" WAR. MR. WALDHEIM REITERATED HIS BLANKET DENIAL OF ALL ACCUSATIONS SURROUNDING HIS WARTIME PAST.

--- MEANWHILE, A NATIONWIDE POLL SHOWS A 4 LEAD FOR MR. WALDHEIM OVER HIS OPPONENT, WHILE A SIZABLE 14-20 OF THE VOTERS ARE STILL UNDECIDED. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE, FPO JUSTICE MINISTER HARALD OFNER SAID THAT MR. WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST WAS NO LONGER OF POLITICAL RELEVANCE. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, APRIL 11)

VISITING SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CAMBODIA

2. VISITING SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER SUPPIAH DHANABALAN CONFERRED WITH HIS AUSTRIAN COUNTERPART LEOPOLD GRATZ ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA, EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THE UN FINANCIAL CRISIS. GRATZ, WHO CHAIRS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA, STATED THAT AUSTRIA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE PRESENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT OF HENG SAMRIN NOR SUPPORT THE KHMER ROUGE-DOMINATED OPPOSITION. DHANABALAN POINTED TO HIS COUNTRY'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-VIETNAMESE RESISTENCE MOVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY. DHANABALAN IS TO CALL ON AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ TODAY. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, APRIL 11)

FORMER AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON POLISARIO

3. FORMER AUSTRIAN INTERIOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER ERWIN LANC RETURNED FROM A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO THE POLISARIO-CONTROLLED WESTERN SAHARA REGION APRIL 10. MR. LANC REPORTEDLY FOUND INCREASED EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY AN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC OF SAHARA (DARS) BY AUSTRIA AND OTHER NEUTRAL EUROPEAN NATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SUCH A MOVE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PUT MORE PRESSURE ON MOROCCO TO NEGOTIATE, LANC SAID. IN HIS VIEW, THE RECOGNITION OF FORMER COLONIAL BORDERS SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE WEST SAHARAN CONFLICT. (SOCIALIST AZ, APRIL 11)

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AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR ON CSCE PROCESS

4. IN AN ADDRESS BEFORE A UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE,
AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND MEMBER OF THE AUSTRIAN
CSCE DELEGATION, FRANZ CESKA, EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF
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THAT AUSTRIA AND OTHER NNA NATIONS MUST PARTICIPATE MORE
CREATIVELY AT THE CSCE CONFERENCE. THE IMPORTANT ISSUE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS TO BE GIVEN MUCH MORE CONSIDERATION
THAN IT HAS RECEIVED SO FAR, THE AMBASSADOR DECLARED.
AS IN MADRID, THE VIENNA FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE COULD
FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT TALKS MIGHT EVENTUALLY FAIL,
CESKA WARNED. (PROVINCIAL SOCIALIST KAERNTNER
TAGESZEITUNG, APRIL 10)

RISING CRITICISM OF INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
SCRINZI

5. AN ANTI-FASCIST DEMONSTRATION AND PUBLIC PROTESTS BY
JEWISH AND SLOVENE GROUPS ARE AMONG THE VISIBLE SIGNS OF
RISING CRITICISM OVER THE CANDIDACY OF OTTO
SCRINZI, FORMER FPO MP AND DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER. THE
AUSTRIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND LEADING ANTI-FASCIST
ACTIVISTS ARE CONSIDERING CONTESTING THE
CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SCRINZI'S CANDIDACY BEFORE AUSTRIAN
ELECTION AUTHORITIES. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE,
COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, APRIL 11)

POPE TO VISIT AUSTRIA AGAIN

6. HAVING ALREADY VISITED AUSTRIA IN 1983, THE POPE
WILL VISIT AUSTRIA A SECOND TIME, CATHOLIC SOURCES IN
AUSTRIA DISCLOSED APRIL 10. DATES AND AN ITINERARY ARE
STILL UNKNOWN, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. (INDEPENDENT
DIE PRESSE, APRIL 11) BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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